

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Fig. 2 has been amended and is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

In view of the claim amendments above and the following remarks and arguments, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 are amended. No new matter is introduced. Claim 1 is amended to correct informalities.

Claim 15 has been added, no new matter is introduced.

Claims 1-15 are currently pending.

II. Amendments to Drawings

Figure 2 is amended. No new matter is introduced.

Applicants replace Figure 2 with amended Figure 2 as attached in the Appendix.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,077,054 to Lee et al. ("Lee"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In amended independent claim 11, Applicants disclose "each lamination element having an internal axial extension and two end radial extensions," which therefore causes the annular stack to have one cylindrical internal surface. In contrast, Lee discloses each lamination element (120, Fig. 4) having two internal axial extensions and a single end radial extension, which therefore causes the

annular stack to have two internal surfaces separated by a gap. Thus, claim 11 is not anticipated by Lee.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Lee in view of International Patent Publication Number 01/73923 to Lilie et al. ("Lilie"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The construction of claim 1 has a lamination stack having a "continuous" annular external lateral surface, obtained by equally spaced lamination elements. In Lee's construction, the external lateral surface is formed by a plurality of block laminations disposed angularly away from each other, thus defining a discontinuous lateral surface. Further, the block distribution of lamination elements in Lee may be also present in the internal surface of the lamination stack, although the figures do not disclose a non-cylindrical internal surface. In Lee, each lamination element of each block of lamination is laterally and mutually seated against each other, such that the end radial extensions and the axial extensions of two adjacent lamination portion are mutually seated. In the construction of claim 1, the lamination stack is defined such that each lamination portion presents a respective radially internal edge to be mutually laterally seated side by side with a radially internal edge of an adjacent lamination portion, defining a rectilinear alignment of each plurality of lamination portions.

Lilie does not supply the limitations deficient in Lee. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Lee and Lilie in order to obtain the construction in amended claim 1.

As claims 2-4, 6, 9, and 10 each depend from independent claim 1, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No 5,318,412 to Laskaris et al. ("Laskaris"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Lee and Lilie in view of in view of U.S. Patent No 3,043,994 to Anderson et al. ("Anderson"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Laskaris does not supply the limitations deficient of Lee. Anderson does not supply the limitations deficient in Lee and Lilie. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Lee, Lilie, Laskaris and/or Anderson. As claims 5, 7, and 8 depends from independent claim 1, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Lee in view of in view Anderson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Lee in view of in view Laskaris. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Anderson and Laskaris do not supply the limitations deficient of Lee. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Lee, Laskaris and/or Anderson. As claims 12 and 13 depends from independent claim 11, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Anderson. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In amended independent claim 14, Applicants disclose “each lamination element comprising: an internal axial extension; and two end radial extensions,” which therefore causes the annular stack to have one cylindrical internal surface. In contrast, Lee discloses each lamination element (120, Fig. 4) having two internal axial extensions and a single end radial extension, which therefore causes the annular stack to have two internal surfaces separated by a gap. Anderson does not supply the limitations deficient in Lee. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Lee and Anderson in order to obtain the construction of amended claim 14.

Applicants respectfully request the rejections to c laims 1-14 be withdrawn.

V. New Claim

Claim 15 has been added. As the claim depends ultimately from claim 1, it is allowable based on the arguments above.

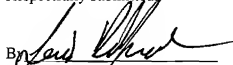
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,



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